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**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #7

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #7**

**PORT NECHES, TX, NRC#1264987**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Report as of 11/30/2019 5:30 PM**

**Overview:** Early in the morning on November 27, the National Response Center received a report about an explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX. The facility is regulated under the Risk Management Program. At approximately 1400 CST on November 27, a secondary explosion occurred. Residents within a four-mile radius of the facility were ordered to evacuate. At 1000 hours on November 29, the Jefferson County judge rescinded the mandatory evacuation. As of 1500 hours on November 30, three pressure fires continue to burn, and TPC will continue to provide suppression to the incident until the fires extinguish themselves. TPC provided a list and a diagram of facility tanks in the impact area and vicinity with impacted tanks to date, as well as the pre-incident volumes of each tank. Thirteen tanks have been impacted from heat, smoke etc. Three tanks have been compromised and have released contents.

EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and TPC teams have been conducting air monitoring throughout the evacuation zone. TCEQ and EPA air monitoring did not report any detections over action levels for 1,3 butadiene, benzene, VOCs, Carbon Monoxide, Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide, and Explosive Limit.

Due to the sheen observed in the 201 Canal, the facility's Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) has placed absorbent boom every 50-100 feet along the canal. The sheen has not made it to the permitted containment discharge area. The furthest extent of the sheen was seen at the Port Neches/Atlantic Road approximately 2 miles from the outfall. It has not made it to the Neches River. TPC has placed large quantities of 18" hard and absorbent boom along the downstream path to the Neches River. At approximately 1050 hours on November 30, TPC observed the first dead fish.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** TCEQ notified Texas Parks and Wildlife of the deceased fish. EPA notified US Fish and Wildlife Service as well.

**EPA Actions:** EPA is serving as the lead federal agency for response efforts. As of 15:00, November 30, EPA is deploying 3 personnel and 9 contractors to Port Neches, and 3 EPA personnel 6 contractors are supporting the response remotely. EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of November 30. No detections were recorded. EPA collected three water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and one water sample upstream of the incident on November 30. Samples will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, Oil and Grease, Glycols, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Total Organic Carbon. A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the <https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire> website.

**Media Interest:** Medium

**Media Links:**

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/power-city/law-firms-taking-action-against-tpc-group-following-port-neches-plant-explosion-fire/502-9fe0ca88-fc8f-4dd9-9811-bc71954e8020>

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-11-29/evacuation-order-lifted-as-huge-texas-plant-fire-contained>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/massive-fire-chemical-plant-southeastern-texas-contained-n1093331>

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/27/us/port-neches-plant-explosion/index.html>

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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